

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, 14-21 and 23-34 are now present in the application. Claims 10, 12, 14-18, 20 and 21 have been amended, claims 1-9, 11, 13 and 22 have been canceled and claims 23-34 have been added. Claims 10 and 14 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final in the Office Action dated February 7, 2002. Although Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, as the Examiner will note, claims 1-9 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to these claims at a later date if it is so desired.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because the application does not contain Figs. 3 or 4 as disclosed in the description of figures section of the specification. As the Examiner will note, Figs. 3 and 4 are included within Fig. 2C. Accordingly, the reference to Figs. 3 and 4 should not be removed from the present application as suggested by the Examiner. However, since Figs. 3 and 4 should not be submitted within another figure, a separate letter to the Official

Draftsperson has been provided which includes proposed Figs. 3 and 4 being separate from Fig. 2C. In addition, Fig. 2C includes circles therein identified by the legends Figs. 3 and 4 in order to identify the portion of Fig. 2C which is included in the detailed views of Figs. 3 and 4. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner approve the proposed drawing correction included with the separate letter to the Official Draftsperson.

The drawings also stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference numeral 120 in Figs. 2A-C. In order to overcome this objection, page 16, paragraph [0062] has been amended to change "stopper manipulator assembly 120" to "stopper clasp assembly 140." Referring to Fig. 2A, reference numeral 140 is clearly included therein to identify the stopper clasp assembly. The remainder of the specification has also been amended in the same manner. In view of this, it is believed that the drawings include all of the reference signs mentioned in the disclosure.

The drawings also stand objected to as not illustrating every feature of the invention specified in the claims. As the Examiner will note, claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, it is unnecessary for the drawings to illustrate "cluster of containers attached via a manifold" as previously recited.

With regard to the recitation regarding the flowable material supplier being operable to supply a flowable material between adjacent of said plurality of open-ended containers, Applicant respectfully submits that this aspect of the present

invention is clearly illustrated in the figures. First, it should be noted that above recitation which was previously included in claim 20 has been amended to recite "flowable material supplier being operable to supply a flowable material between adjacent of said plurality of compartments when one of said plurality of compartments has been closed to enclose at least one of said plurality of receptacles therein." Referring to Fig. 2B of the present invention, a supplier port 9 is formed in the base plate 4 for the flowable material therethrough and out of opening 9a which is in communication with an inside of the receptable tube sack assembly 190. The supplier port 9 is described at paragraphs [0043] to [0044] of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings illustrate every feature of the invention specified in the claims and include all reference signs mentioned in the description. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection are respectfully requested.

Objection of the Specification

The specification stands objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

As the Examiner will note, the subject matter of claim 11 has been added to independent claim 10 and claim 13 has been canceled. In addition, the subject matter of claim 11 which has been added to independent claim 10 has

been changed to recite “a filled receptacle holder” rather than “at least one container.”

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the specification provides proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the specification objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 10-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for a lack of enablement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 10, this claim has been amended to recite that “each of said at least one receptacle is movable” in order to clarify that the receptacles are not moved into the housing and filled at the same time.

With regard to claim 20, as mentioned above with regard to the objection to the drawings, Fig. 2B illustrates the inlet port 9 to allow a flowable material to be supplied between the plurality of compartments formed in the filled receptacle holder. The receptacle conveyance system 50 which brings the receptacle into communication with the flowable material supplier 5, 5A is not how the agent is added to the individual compartments of the filled receptacle holder. Once a receptacle has been sealed within a compartment or prior thereto, the inlet port 9 is used to supply a flowable material inside of the individual compartments as desired.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-21 are sufficiently enabled by the present specification. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 15-17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 15, this claim has been amended to recite that the plurality of compartments is closable. With regard to claim 20, as mentioned above with regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the flowable material supplier is the inlet port 9 and not the flowable material supplier 5, 5A in the upper portion of the housing.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-17 and 20 are definite and clear. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10-13 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reekie, USPN 4,526,045. Claims 10-12, 18-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Conche et al., USPN 3,383,923. Claims 10-12, 18-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schaarschmidt et al., USPN 4,662,231. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chow, USPN 5,409,841. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is respectfully pointed out that the rejection by the Examiner of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of the Reekie reference appears to be improper. As the Examiner will note, claim 20, as originally presented, was dependent from dependent claim 14, which was not rejected by the Examiner in view of the Reekie reference. Since it is believed that dependent claim 14 defines over the Reekie reference, it is also believed that dependent claim 20 defines over the Reekie reference due to its dependence on dependent claim 14, as well as for the additional limitations recited by claim 20. In addition, it should be pointed out that claim 14 has now been presented in independent form including all of the limitations of original independent claims 10 and 11. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 14, and dependent claims 15-17, 20 and 21 should now be in condition for allowance in view of the fact that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, first and second paragraphs have also been overcome.

With regard to independent claim 10 and the claims dependent therefrom, these claims are directed to a device for collecting samples from within a sealed system. Independent claim 10 requires a combination of elements including “a housing,” “an empty receptacle holder” and “a filled receptacle holder.” Furthermore, independent claim 10 requires the recitation “said filled receptacle holder for receiving said at least one receptacle therein and being removably mounted to said housing such that the environment inside said housing and the environment inside said receptacle holder remains sealed from the outside environment.” With the construction according to independent claim 10 of the present invention, it is possible to supply a receptacle into the inside of the housing to fill the receptacle with the flowable material and remove the receptacle from the inside of the housing into the filled receptacle holder. It is also possible to then remove the filled receptacle holder from the housing with the filled receptacle therein without contaminating the inside of the housing or the inside of the filled receptacle holder and without contaminating the outside environment. Applicant respectfully submits that the references relied on by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest the present invention according to independent claim 10.

In particular, Reekie is directed to a sampling system which includes a duct 3 for transporting a carrier 1 containing a bottle. The bottle 1 is removed from the carrier 1 into the inside of a sampling station 2 to be filled with a flowable material. The bottle is then moved back to the carrier 1 and back along

the duct 3 to return to an examination station. Although the sampling system of Reekie is a sealed system which is capable of taking a sample, it is necessary to include the duct work 3 in order to obtain the sample. Since there is only one inlet to the sampling station of Reekie, there is clearly no empty receptacle holder and filled receptacle holder as required by independent claim 10 of the present invention. In addition, Reekie fails to disclose a filled receptacle holder which is removably mounted to the housing such that the environment inside the housing and the environment inside the filled receptacle holder remains sealed from the outside environment as required by independent claim 10. Accordingly, the Reekie reference fails to anticipate independent claim 10 of the present invention.

With regard to the Conche et al. reference relied on by the Examiner, this reference is directed to a bench for taking samples of liquids. The samples are taken within a glove box A which is sealed from the outside environment. However, in Conche et al., a sampling tool F includes a tube 82 which supplies bottles to the glove box A for sampling and removes the bottles from the glove box A. Furthermore, the sampling tool F is not removably mounted to the housing such that the environment inside the housing and the environment inside the filled receptacle holder remains sealed from the outside environment. The Conche et al. device merely inserts bottles into the device and removes these same bottles in turn from the device. Accordingly, there is no empty receptacle

and filled receptacle holder as in the present invention. Therefore the Conche et al. reference fails to anticipate independent claim 10 of the present invention.

With regard to the Schaarschmidt et al. reference, this reference includes a glove box 26 which includes an injection hole 30 and a conveyor conduit 29 which cooperate with an inlet and outlet conduit 27 via a turret 28. Although the glove box 26 is a sealed system, the injection port 30 is not removably mounted to the housing such that the environment inside the housing and the environment inside the filled receptacle holder remains sealed from the outside environment as required by independent claim 10 of the present invention. Accordingly, the Schaarschmidt et al. reference also fails to anticipate independent claim 10 of the present invention.

With regard to the Chow reference relied on by the Examiner, this reference is directed to a sampling device and method of sampling. This reference also fails to disclose the filled receptacle holder recited by independent claim 10 of the present invention. In addition, it should be noted that the subject matter of dependent claim 11 has been added to independent claim 10. Since claim 11 was not rejected in view of the Chow reference, it is believed that amended independent claim 10 defines over this reference.

With regard to dependent claims 12 and 14-21, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable independent claim 10, as well as for the additional limitations recited by these claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10, 12 and 14-21 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 23-34 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. First, it is respectfully submitted that additional claims 23-34 are all directed to Group II which was elected in the present application. Second, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable independent claims 10 and 14, as well as for the additional limitations recited by these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 23-34 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Although the Examiner has not indicated that the present invention includes allowable subject matter, the Examiner did not reject claims 14-17 in view of the prior art. Since these claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, it is believed that claims 14-17 are now in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 20, 21 and 31-34 are believed to be allowable in view of their dependency, either

directly or indirectly on independent claim 14. Finally, with regard to independent claim 10 and dependent claims 12, 18, 19 and 23-30, it is believed that these claims are allowable since independent claim 10 clearly defines the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the above-identified application are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for three (3) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of **\$460.00** is attached hereto.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The heading on page 9, before paragraph [0047] has been amended as follows:

Receptacle Pack or Empty Receptacle Holder:

The paragraph beginning on page 9, paragraph [0047], has been amended as follows:

[0047] Figure 2A-2D illustrate a device that is designed to accept single or multiple receptacles, to fill the receptacles and then to have the capacity to expel all of the receptacles without losing the integrity of the system relative to the surrounding ambient environment. In order to accomplish this an individual receptacle or a group of receptacles are prepackaged into [a] an empty receptacle holder in the form of a receptacle package 40 or a receptacle magazine 40a (not shown). Although Figure 2C illustrates the receptacles being completely enclosed in the receptacle package 40, it is only necessary that an access into the receptacle be enclosed in the package 40 such that, when the package is opened, the receptacle may be filled through the exposed access. Once filled, the access may be reclosed. In the case where the package 40 includes several receptacles, access to individual receptacles may be closed off after each receptacle is filled. Additionally, Figures 2C and 2D shows the receptacles with screwed on stoppers in place. It should be noted that this illustrates only one of many possible types of stoppers that might be used and

further illustrates only one of many way these stoppers may be affixed to the receptacles. Furthermore, it is not necessary that the supplied receptacles have stoppers fixed in place; receptacles may be supplied in the opened condition as well.

The paragraph beginning on page 16, paragraph [0062], has been amended as follows:

[0062] The receptacle conveyance system 50 is illustrated in Figures 2A and 2B. In general terms, the system captures the unfilled receptacle 51 from staging clip assembly 80 at the opening of the injection port 30, moves the unfilled receptacle 51 up to the stopper [manipulator] clasp assembly [120] 140 where the stopper 53, if present, is removed. Receptacle conveyance system 50 then moves the open empty receptacle to the opening 6 of supply 5 where it is filled. After being filled, the receptacle 51a is brought back up to be restoppered by the stopper [manipulator 120] clasp assembly 140 before receptacle conveyance system 50 moves the filled, stoppered receptacle 51a back down and over to the ejection port 170. There the receptacle clasp 100 disengages the receptacle 51a, allowing it to slip down into ejection port 170. If the receptacle 51a is stoppered, the ejector rod tip 160a may engage the top of the stopper 53 before, during or after the receptacle clasp 100 releases the receptacle 51a into

the ejection port 170. In any case, the ejector rod 160 can be used to help manipulate the receptacle 51a down through the ejection port 170 into a receptacle tube sack assembly 190 (if employed) and out of the device 1. If tube sacks are used, after the filled receptacle 51a clears the bottom of the ejection port assembly, a seal or closure 188 may be formed along the tube wall 193 using a variety of devices for sealing or closing 189, thereby cutting off communication between environment in the sealed or closed portion of the tube wall 193 containing filled receptacle 51a and the internal cavity environment of the main housing 2. At the same time, the integrity of the environment around the filled receptacle 51a within the section of tube wall 193 and the integrity of the environment within the main housing 2, is maintained both separate and isolated from that of the outside ambient environment. A detailed description of the operation of the conveyance system 50 follows.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, paragraph [0066], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0066] Clasp arm 102a is mounted directly onto the base of manipulator rod 101 and has a rear extension. Linear bearing arm 102b houses linear bearing 104 which is mounted on subassembly alignment rod 105. Alignment rod 105 is fixed onto stopper [manipulator] clasp assembly [120] 140. This arrangement permits receptacle clasp assembly 100 to slide freely up and down subassembly alignment rod 105, independent of vertically fixed stopper [manipulator] clasp assembly [120] 140 but which cause the two assemblies to

be in locked rotational position relative to each other so that, as receptacle clasp assembly 100 is rotated, stopper [manipulator] clasp assembly [120] 140 rotates by the same amount. As a result, any receptacle 51 or stopper 53 held by either always maintains their relative rotational alignment, regardless of position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, paragraph [0069], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0069] Captured receptacle 51 with stopper 53 in place can be raised vertically so that stopper 53 is engaged and captured by stopper clasp assembly 140 [of stopper manipulator 120] by raising handle 101a vertically. Stopper clasp assembly 140 includes clasp body 121, clasp gear 121a, main gear 121b, grip rods 141a-141d, grip sleeves 145a-145d, cam 133 with lobe 139 and its bore 139a and lobe 131 with its bore 131a, upper pinion 122a and lower pinion 122b. The grip rods 141a-141d are attached to clasp body 121, are slightly tapered and may be tension mounted so as to receive the stopper 53 and hold it firmly as it is forced up between the rods on top of the receptacle 51. As with receptacle clasp assembly 100, these rods may include grip sleeves 145a-145d to assist in tightly securing stopper 53 when it is engaged. Clasp gear 121a is nonrotatingly fixed to clasp body 121 by lower pinion 122b. The Clasp body 121, clasp gear 121a, grip rods 141a-141d and sleeves 145a-145d are all attached as one rotatable element cam 133 by means of upper pinion 122a positioned in bore 131a of lobe 131 of cam 133. Bore 137 of cam 133 is mounted rotationally free in recess 138 of lower extension 19. Subassembly alignment rod 105 is fixed into bore 139a of

lobe 139 of cam 133. As described earlier, fixing the position of subassembly alignment rod 105 on cam 133 forces receptacle clasp assembly 100 to remain in fixed rotational alignment with stopper clasp assembly 140 attached to cam 133. Main gear 121b is fixed to the wall 2b of internal cavity 2a of main housing 2. With cover plate 3 in place, main gear 121b is fixed in the same horizontal plane as clasp gear 121a so that the two always remain meshed. If handle 101a is rotated, receptacle clasp assembly 100 and stopper clasp assembly 140 both rotate about manipulator rod 101. Because clasp body 121 and its fixed parts are also fixed to clasp gear 121a which is meshed with main gear 121b, besides causing receptacle clasp assembly 100 and stopper clasp assembly 140 to rotate, turning handle 101a will also cause clasp gear 121a and clasp body 121 and its associated fixed parts to spin on their own axis about upper pinion 122a. With receptacle 51 captured in receptacle clasp assembly 100 and stopper 53 captured in stopper clasp assembly 140, rotating handle 101a in one direction will cause a threaded stopper 53 to unscrew from the receptacle being held fixed on its own axis in the receptacle clasp assembly 100 while rotating handle 101a in the other direction would cause it to thread back on to the receptacle 51 or 51a. In this way stoppers 53 may be removed and reattached to receptacles 51 or 51a. Spring loaded clasps in combination with the rotational motion of either the stopper 53 or the receptacle 51 or 51a relative to the other in combination with applied vertical pressure is the commonly used method for opening stopper-receptacle combinations, even if they are friction tight and not held by threads.

The paragraph beginning on page 20, paragraph [0076], has been amended as follows:

Tube Sacks or Filled Receptacle Holder:

Figures 2A-2D illustrates a device that is designed to allow filled receptacles 51a to be removed from the device 1 as single unit receptacles, multiple receptacles as a single group or multiple receptacles as individual receptacles, all without losing the integrity of the environment around the receptacle (or receptacles) and without losing the integrity of the environment within the device 1. This may be accomplished by attaching a length of empty blind ended sealed tubing constructed similarly to the receptacle package already described (except without any receptacles), allowing access to be gained into one end of the blind tube, the end with the septum, by the same coring means described earlier for the receptacle package, thereby opening the interior to receive filled receptacles as they are ejected through the ejection port 170. Although illustrated in Figures 2A-2D as a soft sided tubular structure, like the receptacle package, the tube sack or filled receptacle holder may also be constructed as a semi-ridged or ridged container or magazine. Also like the receptacle package, rather than a septum, the access into the structure might also be structured in other ways, such as a valve.

The paragraph beginning on page 21, paragraph [0077], has been amended as follows:

As the first filled receptacle 51a is fed out of the ejection port 170 into the receptacle tube sack assembly 190, whether rolled, folded or pleated, the first length of tube wall 193 that has been sealed at the distal end to form a blind length of tube sack, the blind end tube sack 191, can be fed out. After the portion of the blind end tube sack 191 with the filled receptacle extends out beyond the lower conical portion 177c, the sack may be sealed in single or multiple seal fashion, segregating the internal environment of the housing from that within the length of blind end tube sack 191 now containing filled receptacle 51a to form a compartment. Before the length of tube wall 193 is sealed; however, an agent may be added into the length of blind end tube sack 191 now containing filled receptacle 51a to protect, stabilize, clean, sterilize, neutralize or otherwise decontaminate or treat the material still on the outside of the receptacle 51a and any residing within the blind end tube sack 191. With the filled receptacle 51a in the blind end tube sack 191 a seal or closure 188 may then be made by a device for sealing or closing 189. This device could be any appropriate means, including twisting, crimping, heat sealing, sonicating, gluing, tying-off, zipping, clamping or any other pressure, temperature, chemical, physical or biological device. Furthermore, the seal or closure 189 could consist of single or multiple seals or closures formed in between sections of tube wall used to form a blind end tube sack 191 to receive the next filled receptacle 51a. It should be noted here as stated elsewhere in this disclosure that agents may be added into the sections of tube wall between seals or closures or into the section

where a seal or closure will be made in order to promote cleaning, sterilizing, neutralizing, decontaminating or otherwise treating the material in that area so that when the tube wall is cut through to separate the distal sealed or closed section of tube wall containing the filled receptacle from the section of tube wall ending in a blind end tube section still attached to the device, material or residue won't be released into the outside ambient environment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9, 11, 13 and 22 have been canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) A device for collecting samples from within a sealed system, comprising:

a housing, said housing having an internal cavity sealed from the ambient environment outside the housing, said housing including an injection port and an ejection port formed therein;

an empty receptacle holder, said empty receptacle holder being in communication with said injection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said empty receptacle holder holding at least one receptacle therein;

a filled receptacle holder, said filled receptacle holder being in communication with said ejection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said filled receptacle holder for receiving said at least one receptacle therein and being removably mounted to said housing such that the environment inside said housing and the environment inside said filled receptacle holder remain sealed from the outside environment,

[a plurality of receptacles, said plurality of receptacles being fillable] wherein each of said at least one receptacle is movable from said empty receptacle holder into said internal cavity of said housing to be filled with a flowable material while within said internal cavity of said housing, and said at least one receptacle is movable into said filled receptacle holder to be removed therewith.

12. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim [11] 10, wherein said [at least one container] filled receptacle holder is a single blind-ended container for receiving said plurality of receptacles therein.

14. (Amended) [The] A device for collecting samples from within a sealed system [according to claim 11], comprising:

a housing, said housing having an internal cavity sealed from the ambient environment outside the housing;

a plurality of receptacles, each of said plurality of receptacles being movable into said internal cavity of said housing and fillable with a flowable material while within said internal cavity of said housing, respectively; and

a filled receptacle holder, said filled receptacle container receiving each of said plurality of receptacles after each of said plurality of receptacles has been filled, said filled receptacle holder being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within said internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing,

wherein [said at least one container is a plurality of open-ended containers connected in end-to-end relationship to form] said filled receptacle holder is an integral tube which is separable into a plurality of filled receptacle compartments, a first of said plurality of [containers] compartments [being sealed at one of open ends] having an open end thereof forming a seal with said housing, and a last of said plurality of [containers] compartments having a closed distal end, each of said plurality of [containers] compartments being closable to contain at least one of said plurality of filled receptacles therein in an isolated manner.

15. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, wherein said last of said plurality of compartments is closable after a first of [the] said plurality of filled receptacles is received

therein to isolate said first filled receptacle from the environment within said internal cavity of said housing and from said outside environment, remaining of said plurality of [containers] compartments remaining in an open condition with said internal cavity of said housing to receive a subsequent filled receptacle therein.

16. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of [containers] compartments is closable at opposite ends thereof to isolate adjacent of said plurality of [containers] compartments from each other when a respective of said plurality of [containers] compartments has received a filled receptacle therein.

17. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of [containers] compartments is closable by one of the group consisting of heat sealing, zipper sealing, crimping, adhesive sealing, screw capping, and stoppering.

18. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim [11] 10, further comprising a flowable material supplier, said flowable material supplier being operable to supply a flowable material to one of said housing, said plurality of receptacles and said [at least one container] filled receptacle holder.

20. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, further comprising a flowable material supplier, said flowable material supplier being operable to supply a flowable material between adjacent of said plurality of [open-ended containers] compartments when one of said plurality of [open-ended containers] compartments has been closed to enclose at least one of said plurality of receptacles therein.

21. (Amended) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim [10] 14, further comprising:

an injection port formed in said housing; and

[a] an empty receptacle holder, said empty receptacle holder being in communication with said injection port and being sealed with the housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing,

wherein said empty receptacle holder holds said plurality of receptacles therein prior to filling within said housing.

Claims 23-24 have been added.